

GENERIC JOB DESCRIPTION

UTAH SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

A soil conservation district (SCD) is a local, governmental sub-division of the state. It is classified as a dependent special district. It is dependent upon the Utah Soil Conservation Commission for its structure, accountability guidelines, and much of its funding. A board of five elected citizens called Supervisors governs it.

The SCD Board of Supervisors basic duties are to -

1. Develop and direct programs that assist private land managers to safely use, enhance, conserve, and protect their soil, water, and related natural resources.
2. Work in cooperation with the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development organizations to enlist the help of other agencies and groups who can contribute to the accomplishments of the district's goals and plans.

The SCD Board holds regular, open meetings to plan and coordinate district programs to accomplish their legal duties. Some types of SCD programs include: technical assistance for conservation project planning; financial incentives for projects; conservation education; and, special issue response.

Utah law outlines SCD Board duties. These are summarized on the back of this sheet. Ask current SCD Board members for a description of their district's natural resource concerns, goals, duties, priorities and programs.

SCD Supervisors are elected, in a special election through the mail, by principal farm/ranch land managers and others registered voters who request a ballot. Elections take place on even numbered years during January and February. Supervisors serve four-year terms of office. Terms of office begin in mid March.

SUPERVISOR'S GENERIC DUTIES (Ask local SCD officials for specifics):

1. Represent interests of the electorate with natural resource conservation and enhancement.
2. Learn the duties, needs, and programs of the SCD.
3. Attend and participate in SCD Board meetings, usually held monthly.
4. Fulfill assignments given by the SCD Board, which might include district leadership positions, committee activities, or special assignments.
5. Help find solutions to natural resource concerns, and ask others to assist.

BENEFITS OF SCD SUPERVISOR SERVICE:

1. Receive personal satisfaction for providing a valuable civic service.
2. Help protect and enhance your land/water/air shed's natural environmental resources.
3. Have the opportunity for personal growth and development.
4. Receive some compensation for personal expenses while doing SCD duties.

See reverse side for SCD legislated duties

SCD LEGISLATED DUTIES

The first sentence of Utah State Law 17A-3-805 reads: "Each district organized under this part is a political subdivision of the state has and shall exercise the following functions, powers, and duties..." A copy of this law is available upon request. Following is a summary of soil conservation district (SCD-s) duties found in sections 805-6 of the law -

1. Devise and implement, through land users, measures for the prevention of soil erosion, flood water and sediment damage, and non-point source water pollution, such as to:
 - a. Develop a short and long-range district program plan.
 - b. Help private land operators prepare a conservation plan.
 - c. Enter into cooperative agreements with private or public groups to provide or bring about conservation work.
 - d. Construct and maintain conservation projects.
 - e. Disseminate information on resource conservation.
 - f. Conduct conservation demonstration projects.
 - g. Provide conservation materials and services needed to install projects when those goods or services are not available at a reasonable cost through private industry; and,
 - h. Offer information and assistance to land managers on how to participate in conservation programs such as the Utah's Agricultural Resource Development Loan (ARDL), USDA cost share and technical assistance and EPA/USDA Non-point source funded water quality improvement programs.
2. When necessary and when able to obtain adequate financial resources - acquire and maintain property, both real and personal, and employ staff to help bring about conservation.
3. Conduct, publish, and disseminate surveys, investigations, and research about resource conditions and problems or measures needed to maintain or improve them.
4. Make recommendations governing land use within the district such as, but not limited to, provisions requiring:
 - a. the observance of particular methods of cultivation;
 - b. planting of specific crop programs;
 - c. following needed tillage practice;
 - d. construction of terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, dikes, ponds and other structures; and,
 - e. Prohibiting the tillage and cultivation of highly erosive areas.